NEWTON
July 18
MS

Paid

PAID

18¾

Rev. Amos A. Phelps
New York City.

anti Sla—

E. D. Moore
Natick July 16.
1836

She will not bear I should think, to have a connection urged upon her. I would say little if any thing about it. You might speak of me if you saw fit, as a man, a minister, as worthy of her society, & one to whom she might confide herself with perfect safety. If you let her know that I have written to you, ~~let her know~~ say to her that I speak of the visit as pleasant & satisfactory, but do not intimate that I am acquainted with her past affliction, or that I have made known to you the circumstances of my visit, or asked you to write. But I need not give counsel: you will need no one to guide your pen but Mrs. Phelps. If you write to Rebecca, write to me at the same time, — write to me at any rate. I want your advice & that of Mrs P. And write soon. as you know I am in a quandary, & very liable to take a false step!

In writing to Rebecca I shall say nothing of marriage, shall dictate a letter of pure friendship, express my decided approbation of the course she took, speak of it as a prudent measure, dictated by sound policy, & confess that I admire the delicacy that led her to shrink from an interview, though not absolutely to decline; [illegible]he shall be pleased with the chirography, style, & spirit of the let[illegible] I think she will answer, & if she does not absolutely forbid it I shall write again. It will take time to make her forget the past, & insensibly yield herself anew. I shall have patience. Such prizes are taken usually by siege & not by storm. And I remember the adage,

"The fruit that will fall without shaking
Indeed is too mellow for me".

Meanwhile I shall not commit my happiness to Rebecca, but "keep my heart with all diligence".

I should have said before now, that R. does not want you should think, or that any body should think, she is anxious to get married. Your recommending me, made her feel as though you perhaps thought thus of her, & she felt hurt about it. She should have no intimation however that you are acquainted with this fact.

Now Br. allow me to thank you again for your kind interference in this matter, & to thank you by way of anticipation for all you may hereafter do.

I understand very well the import of the question you refer to in your letter. It was a question of some interest to me at the time I assure you, & it is well I got the answer as I did.

My kindest regards to Mrs Phelps

Affectionately yours
E. D. Moore

I sent to her that no step should be taken contrary to her wishes, & that I regarded the course she had taken as not only kind to me, but wise & prudent. She was relieved, thanked me much for the delicate & gentlemanly manner in which I had treated her, soon came into the room with her sister, & we chatted a few moments pleasantly, when I bid them good by, & left.

Since that have seen Br. Powers, & learnt that Rebecca has had a severe affliction in consequence of Thurston's treatment of her. This accounts for her reluctance to think even of another connection; not that she is attached to Thurston, for as I learn she is not, but to ~~think~~ receive visits & proposals revives those feelings of distress & grief from which she has but just escaped. Had I known more of this I should have taken a different course. She would have received me on the score of friendship merely, but knowing my object put on the defensive. This however was what I might have expected, had she met with no affliction. She knew nothing of me as a man or a minister. I was a stranger, & she could feel no particular interest in me, & she would naturally fear to commit herself in the least.

I am at a loss now what course to take. I confess I am pleased with the girl, – should think your description of her true; & there is no false modesty in my agreeing with you, that she would be pleased with me, could we have an intimate acquaintance. I believe there would be a peculiar blending of feeling & character. But I should need to be with her much & often, as a friend, dropping the idea of marriage, until her confidence should be won. Whether such an intimacy can be brought about I know not. I intend immediately to write to her, & if she answers, & permits a correspondence it will open the way. But she must know more of me, & of whom can she inquire? She will not dare inquire at all. You may help the matter by writing to her. She knows that you turned my attention to her. I thought to inform her of this would be the best recommendation I could have. If you write to her, you will need to be extremely tender of her feelings. You know her whole history.

Natick July 16th 1836.
E. D. Moore.

40

Dear Br. Phelps.

You have certainly manifested a very kind regard for my welfare in writing to me as you did, & I thank you very much for it. I deliberated for some time what course to take, & finally concluded my best way would be to go to Smithfield & throw myself upon the confidence of Br. Elliott, & through him make inquiries & observations. I have done so. Went to Smithfield Tuesday last. Found Br. E. sick & unable to leave his bed, spent the night with him, & in the morning his wife rode over to Mr. Bartlett's with me, & gave me an introduction. Had not been in the house 20 minutes, before, to my surprise, in came Br. Powers; was glad to see him: carried Mrs. E. home, & promising as I left ~~to return~~ Br. P. to return immediately which I did; made him acquainted with my object, perceiving he was intimate in the family, & through him communicated the object of my visit to Rebecca, & solicited an interview. Her feelings were exceedingly tried, She did not decline an interview, but shrunk from it. shed some tears, & expressed a wish rather, that the matter might proceed no further. I wished by all means to spare her feelings, thought that to urge the matter in her then agitated state of mind, would make an unhappy impression;